

efficient law enforcement, better protected communities, and thus a safer nation.

However, the severe cut in funding suffered by the Byrne-JAG program in fiscal year 2008 is already beginning to dismantle the progress law enforcement has made in the fight against crime. Appropriating additional funding for this vital program will help law enforcement sustain and build upon the tremendous strides they have made in keeping our communities safe.

NAPO has made a significant step forward in our fight to get funding restored to the Byrne-JAG program for fiscal 2008. The Senate leadership unveiled their fiscal year 2008

emergency supplemental bill on Thursday, May 8, which included the \$490 million in additional funding for the Byrne-JAG program that NAPO requested. However, this restoration of crucial funding for the program was unfortunately not included in the House version. The Senate is expected to take up its version of the bill the week of May 19.

We are grateful that the Senate appropriators answered NAPO's call and recognized the importance of restoring funding to this vital program. We will continue to work to ensure that the \$490 million for the Byrne-JAG program is kept in the final version of the bill.

## Congress Working to Reauthorize Bulletproof Vest Grant

**Congressmen Peter Visclosky** (D-IN) and **Frank LoBiondo** (R-NJ) and **Senator Patrick Leahy** (D-VT) introduced the "Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 2008," H.R. 6045 and S. 3012, respectively, on May 13, 2008. This bill will reauthorize the Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Grant program within the Department of Justice through 2012 and continue vital federal support that will make certain all of America's law enforcement officers are provided the life-saving security of bulletproof vests.

Congress established the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program in 1998 to help state and local law enforcement agencies obtain the protective equipment necessary to safeguard the lives of their officers. Since 1999, the grant program has supported over 11,900 jurisdictions in purchasing an estimated 450,000 vests.

Over the past decade, this important program has helped protect the lives of nearly a half million law

enforcement officers. NAPO has supported this program since its inception and this is the third time we have had to work to get the BVP Program reauthorized. NAPO supports the efforts of Congressmen Visclosky and LoBiondo and Senator Leahy and hopes that in addition to reauthorizing the program, Congress will decide to fully fund it at its authorized level of \$50 million dollars. Furthermore, NAPO will continue to call on lawmakers to make this a permanent program within the Department of Justice.

The BVP funds up to 50 percent of the cost of each vest purchased or replaced by law enforcement applicants. Only vest models that comply with the requirements of the Justice Department's Office of Justice Program's National Institute of Justice (NIJ) may be purchased with BVP Program funds. For more information on this important grant program, please visit [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bvpbasi/](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bvpbasi/) or call the NAPO office at (703) 549-0775.

## Congress, White House Continue Working On FISA Compromise

Democrat and Republican Congressional staff met with administration officials on April 21, to restart stalled discussions on the controversial electronic surveillance bill that would overhaul the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA). The biggest issue under dispute would grant retroactive legal immunity to telecommunications companies being sued for their cooperation in the federal government's warrantless surveillance program after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Discussions had stopped in February because House Democrats were unwilling to accept the immunity provision as part of the bill and Senate Republicans vowed to block any bill that does not protect telecommunications companies from prosecution.

After the tragedies of September 11, 2001, telecommunications firms fulfilled what they perceived to be their patriotic duty in responding to the government's request for assistance in gathering intelligence. While we do not wish to discuss the legality of the administration's warrantless surveillance program, we do feel that these firms should not come under legal action for responding to requests authorized by the President and the Attorney General. It is unfair to subject these companies to costly civil lawsuits and

damaged reputations merely for cooperating with their government.

Additionally, granting retroactive immunity to telecommunications companies is necessary to avoid establishing a very dangerous precedent that would act as a strong disincentive for individual companies and even entire industries to assist law enforcement at any level of government. We believe granting immunity is an essential step that must be taken to preserve the cooperative relationship between the government and private industry.

The federal government alone cannot fight the war on terror. It depends on state and local governments, as well as the private sector, to help prevent the next terrorist attack. We need to strengthen, not weaken, these established partnerships.

NAPO supports this provision, which is included in the FISA Amendments Act of 2008, which was passed by the Senate on February 12. We believe that providing retroactive immunity for companies that cooperated in the government's war on terror is an important step toward keeping our nation safe.

## NAPO Participates in DOJ C.O.P.S. Roundtable

On April 8 and 9, NAPO participated in a Roundtable Discussion convened by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) on *Building Partnerships to Advance Effective Policing*. The goal of the meeting was to examine the impact of community policing on communities

across the country and to further define changes that may be needed to support the expansion of community policing. NAPO was the only organization representing the needs of rank-and-file state and local law enforcement officers at the roundtable discussion. ■

## Philippine police officers told to smile, or else

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine police officers were instructed Wednesday to smile in public or face suspension in an attempt to spruce up their image as rough and rude.

"We are encouraging policemen to be community friendly," police Director Leopoldo Bataoil said. "There is no place for rough and brusque officers in this organization."

He said police were responding to public complaints over officers' behavior at road checkpoints.

"Good morning. Good afternoon. Good evening. Sorry for the inconvenience. Thank you so much. Sir/Ma'am... these are words of courtesy which the public wants to hear from us," Bataoil said.

He said officers who fail to follow the guidelines will be charged administratively and face suspension.

© 2008 The Associated Press.

Baby Bear goes downstairs and sits in his small chair at the big table, and looks into his small bowl. It is empty. "Who's been eating my porridge?" he squeaks.

Papa Bear arrives at the big table and sits in his big chair. He looks into his big bowl, and it is also empty. "Who's been eating my porridge?" he roars.

Momma Bear puts her head through the serving hatch from the kitchen and yells, "For Pete's sake, how many times do we have to go through this? It was Momma Bear who got up first; it was Momma Bear who woke everyone in the house; it was Momma Bear who made the coffee; it was Momma Bear who unloaded the dishwasher from last night and put everything away; it was Momma Bear who went out in the cold early morning air to fetch the newspaper; it was Momma Bear who set the table; it was Momma Bear who put the cat out; cleaned the litter box; and filled the cat's water and food dish; and, now that you've decided to drag your sorry bear-butts downstairs, and grace Momma Bear's kitchen with your grumpy presence, listen good, cause I'm only going to say this one more time...

'I HAVEN'T MADE THE DARN PORRIDGE YET!'"

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Have you moved recently, or are in the process of moving? If so, we need your new address! Please notify the PBA office of your change of address so that you won't miss any important mailings.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Your SSN helps us identify you correctly in case of similar names.)

New Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Attn: Membership Secretaries, Florida PBA, 300 E. Brevard Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301

Phone: 1-800-733-3722